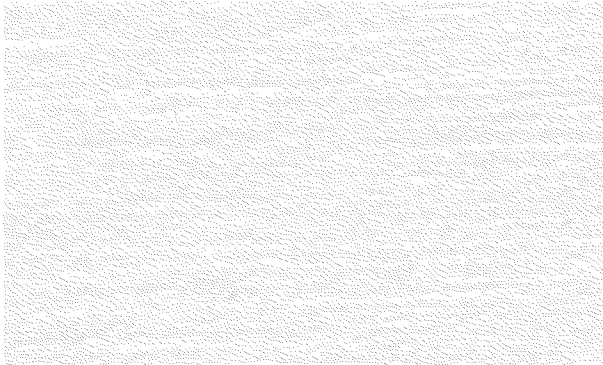


**To:** Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; StClair, Christie[StClair.Christie@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** R8 GKM Leadership Team[R8\_GKM\_LeadershipTeam@epa.gov]; Sisk, Richard[Sisk.Richard@epa.gov]; Mylott, Richard[Mylott.Richard@epa.gov]; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa[Mcclain-Vanderpool.Lisa@epa.gov]  
**From:** Jenkins, Laura Flynn  
**Sent:** Tue 5/24/2016 6:27:58 PM  
**Subject:** Silverton Standard Media Req



Nancy & Christie:

Below are responses to the media inquiry from Mark Esper of the Silverton Standard & Miner Newspaper. These responses have been vetted through the GKM LT, as well as through Richard Sisk. I'm only here until 4:00 pm today, so if you'd like me to transmit the final responses to Mark, please get back to by 3:45. If you'd prefer that you or Christie transmit to Mark, that certainly works for me, just please let me know which you'd prefer.

Thanks,

Laura Jenkins

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**I was up Cement Creek today and I can't help noticing the American Tunnel, yards away from the expensive plant, discharging directly into Cement Creek, untreated. I was wondering if the EPA can really explain that. The pipe from the Gold King actually runs right over the American Tunnel discharge ditch. If the EPA can do removal action at the Red & Bonita and Gold King, why not treat the American Tunnel runoff which is only yards from the plant? It seems to me that any objective effort actually aimed at water quality improvement would address that obvious source. And to let that water go untreated yards away from a new, expensive plant does not seem very reasonable.**

*The interim water treatment plant installed at Gladstone in November 2015, is treating ongoing acid mine drainage being discharged from the Gold King Mine (GKM). Both the Red and Bonita and the American Tunnel are listed as source areas within the proposed Bonita Peak Mining District. If the site is added to the NPL, ongoing removal activities at the two mines, and activities at the American Tunnel, will be conducted within the context of the broader Superfund cleanup. Treatment of discharges from other sources must be evaluated, and decisions made, within the context of the Superfund process before any actions are taken.*

**Was any effort made at all to have Kinross agree to treat the American Tunnel discharge?**

*The Superfund program operates on the principle that polluters should pay for the cleanups, rather than passing the costs to taxpayers. Early in the cleanup process EPA searches for potentially responsible parties (PRPs). EPA looks for evidence to determine liability by matching wastes found at the site with parties that may have contributed wastes to the site. EPA has initiated a search for potentially responsible parties (PRPs) for some of the mines in the proposed Bonita Peak Mining District, but at this time does not know when that process will be complete and PRPs identified.*

*In accordance with EPA's authorities, a final Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS), which is a comprehensive investigation and cost analysis, and a remedy selection, will govern the scope and details of the cleanup. The results of these studies will ultimately determine project cost and timeline.*

**The EPA has spoken of possible interim remediation actions that can be taken this**

**summer, in addition to the investigative work. Given how easy (operationally) it would likely be to treat the American Tunnel discharge, would that be under consideration for this summer?**

*The interim water treatment plant installed at Gladstone in November 2015, was designed specifically to treat the ongoing acid mine drainage from the Gold King Mine as EPA continues efforts to stabilize the adit in 2016. Following the release, EPA designed the treatment plant to treat the flow and water chemistry from the mine with some capacity to handle surges. In May of 2016, EPA brought in a second clarifier to manage increased flows from spring runoff, as well as any increased metal loading, should one or both occur.*

*Treating discharges from other mines in the area, at this time, would reduce our capacity to effectively manage the discharge from the Gold King Mine as we continue our work in the adit. A broader, more detailed, look at mines and their related discharges will be considered as part of the Bonita Peak Mining District RS/FS.*